Statement

FM Stations Functioning in Karnataka

Sl.No.	Places
1.	Dharwad
2.	Mangalore
3.	Mysore
4.	Bangalore
5.	Hassan
6.	Chitradurg
7.	Hospet
8.	Raichur
9.	Mercara
10.	Karwar
11.	Bijapur
12.	Bellary (1KW FM Station as an interim set-up)

Reduction in Entertainment Tax

2110. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has requested all the States to reduce entertainment tax to the level of 45 per cent;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the entertainment tax collected by various States, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government are going to compensate the States, if they reduce their tax to 45 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) 'Cinema' except 'certification of films' is a State subject. Entertainment

tax is levied by the State Governments and no data is maintained by the Central Government on the tax collected by State Governments. A Committee for the Development of the Entertainment Sector was set up in January 2001, under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Government of India with nine State Ministers of Information as members, *inter alia* to suggest a policy framework both at the Centre and in the States conducive to promoting the entertainment sector. The Committee in its second meeting held on 8.11.2001, *inter alia,* recommended that all State Governments fix their entertainment tax within a ceiling of 60%. In response to this recommendation, several State Governments have reduced the rates of entertainment tax in their States. In its third meeting held on 13-10-2003, the Committee recommended a further reduction of the ceiling on entertainment tax rates for films from 60% to 45% by the State Governments as lower entertainment tax is expected to increase theatre attendance and deter piracy, thereby increasing the State Government's tax collections over a period of time. The recommendation of the Committee has been circulated to all State Governments.

Free to air DTH services

2111. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is very soon going to approach the Cabinet for its consent on the Prasar Bharati's proposal to start free to air DTH services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the allocation received from the Planning Commission to implement this project; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for providing this service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Doordarshan's Pilot project of "Ku-band transmission" has been approved by the Government. Thirty free-to-air channels are expected to be broadcast under the scheme.